AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) An apparatus for harvesting and implanting a bone core, comprising:

a collet assembly including a selectively engageable mechanism, said collet assembly further having a sleeve defining a sleeve throughbore, a collar disposed within said sleeve throughbore and having a collar throughbore, and a compression spring within said sleeve throughbore providing a biasing force on said collar;

a harvester to selectively engage said selectively engageable mechanism and to be at least partially disposed within said sleeve throughbore and encompass a portion of said collar, said harvester defining a harvester throughbore;

a first graspable assembly and a separate second graspable assembly to selectively engage said collet assembly, each defining a graspable assembly bore that is generally aligned with said harvester throughbore when said first or second graspable assembly are separately and selectively engaged to said collet assembly; and

a pin extending from said collar to engage a proximal pin engaging depression in an end wall of said harvester such that as a torque is applied to said collet assembly the torque is transferred to said harvester;

wherein said collar is slideable within said sleeve throughbore when acted upon by said harvester;

wherein said collar is biased in a first position by said compression spring disposed between said collar and said sleeve;

wherein said first graspable assembly is a drill motor and said second graspable assembly is a handle wherein either said drill motor or said handle individually selectively engages said collet assembly;

wherein said selectively engageable mechanism includes a generally quick-release mechanism wherein said harvester is engageable and disengageable from said selectively engageable mechanism with pressure from the user.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

a plunger moveable within said graspable assembly bore and said harvester throughbore;

wherein said plunger is operable with said harvester throughbore during a harvesting of the bone core;

wherein said collet assembly is disengageable from either of said first or second graspable assembly and said plunger is operable to remove the bone core from said harvester;

wherein said collar throughbore, said sleeve throughbore, and said harvester throughbore are operable to be substantially coaxial.

17. – 18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said harvester includes a collet engaging end and a harvesting end;

wherein said harvesting end includes a sharpened portion to cut a selected portion of a bone to harvest the bone core;

wherein said harvester is operable to collect the bone core within said harvester throughbore.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said sharpened portion includes at least one of a sawtooth and a generally planar edge.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the bone core may be removed from either of said collet engaging end or said harvesting end.

22. – 23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the bone core is collectible within said harvester throughbore and said plunger is operable to remove the bone core from said harvester throughbore.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said plunger is able to push the bone core into a selected position from said harvester substantially directly from said harvester.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said harvester throughbore is substantially equal in at least one dimension throughout.

27. (currently amended)A method of harvesting and implanting a bone core, comprising:

interconnecting a harvesting member with a collet in a quick-release manner, including operably contacting said harvesting member with a biasing member and providing a biasing force on said harvesting member;

interconnecting said collet with a graspable member including a graspable handle or alternatively a drill motor;

driving said harvesting member into a selected bone portion;

trapping a selected length of bone within said harvesting member; and

removing said trapped selected length of bone from said harvesting member into a selected location at least by pushing said trapped selected length of bone from a throughbore defined at least through said harvesting member and said collet while said harvesting member is interconnected with said collet;

wherein interconnecting said collet with a graspable member includes selectively locking said collet to said graspable handle that is strikeable with a mallet and driving said harvesting member includes striking said graspable member with said mallet to drive said harvesting member into the selected bone portion;

wherein interconnecting said collet with a graspable member alternatively includes selectively connecting said collet to said drill motor such that said drill motor is able to rotate said collet and driving said harvesting member includes rotating said harvesting member with said drill motor and pressing said harvesting member into the selected bone portion.

28 - 31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended)The method of claim 27, further comprising:

disposing said harvesting member with said trapped selected length of bone relative to an implant site; and

wherein removing said selected length of bone includes pushing said selected length of bone into the implant site.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

disposing a plunger through at least a portion of said harvesting member;

wherein removing said selected length of bone includes pushing said selected length of bone from said harvesting member into the implant site with the plunger.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein interconnecting said harvesting member with said collet in a quick-release manner further includes positioning said harvesting member over a member having a member cannula and moving a collar within a throughbore of a sleeve against said biasing member to allow a pin to engage the harvesting member and remain exterior to at least said member cannula;

wherein said harvesting member includes a first end and a second end, wherein removing said selected length of bone includes removing the selected length of bone from at least one of the first end and the second end.

35. (currently amended)An instrument for harvesting a selected bone core, comprising:

a graspable member operable to be grasped by a user;

a harvest member operable with said graspable member to harvest the selected bone core; and

a connecting assembly including a connecting member having a connecting member cannula and a spring biasing member and a bearing member positioned within a sleeve, said connecting assembly operable to selectively interconnect said graspable member and said harvest member at least with said harvest member encompassing a portion of said connecting member;

wherein said graspable member includes ~~both of~~ an impact handle or a drill motor, wherein either of said impact handle or said drill motor are selectively engaged with said connecting member;

wherein said bearing member engages a bearing aperture of the harvest member in a quick release manner to selectively hold said harvest member relative to said graspable member and said bearing member remaining substantially external to said connecting member cannula;

wherein said spring biasing member compresses between said harvest member and a wall within said sleeve when said bearing member is engaged to said harvest member.

36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented) The instruments of claim 35, wherein said harvest member includes a cannula operable to be aligned with said connecting member cannula and a cutting end including at least one of a sharpened edge or a saw tooth.

38. (previously presented) The instrument of claim 35, wherein said connecting member couples with said harvest member;

wherein said harvest member can be coupled and uncoupled from said connecting member with a substantially axial motion alone.

39. (previously presented) The instrument of claim 35, wherein said harvest member is removably couplable to said a connecting member.

40. (previously presented) The instrument of claim 35, wherein said graspable member is removably couplable to said connecting member.

41. (currently amended)An instrument for forming a selected core of a bone, comprising:

a harvesting member operable to be driven into a selected portion of the bone, said harvesting member having a bearing aperture, wherein said harvesting member defines a harvesting cannula including a dimension substantially equal throughout a length of said harvesting member;

a graspable portion extending from said harvesting member such that said harvesting member can be positioned relative to the selected portion of bone for forming the bone core; and

a collet assembly including a sleeve defining an internal sleeve bore with a biasing spring member, ~~a collar,~~ a member having a member cannula, and a bearing member at least partially positioned within said internal sleeve bore;

wherein the biasing spring member is compressed by said ~~collar~~ member when said harvesting member is moved against said ~~collar~~ member to encompass at least a portion of the member ~~of said collet assembly~~ and said bearing member engages said bearing aperture ~~to interconnect~~ when said harvesting member and said graspable portion are interconnected;

wherein said bearing member extends through said bearing aperture and contacts a bearing locking depression in said sleeve to hold said ~~collar~~ member in a selected position and hold said harvesting member relative to said graspable portion while said bearing member is maintained substantially external to said member cannula.

42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising:

a plunger member;

wherein said plunger member is operable to be moved through said harvesting cannula and said member cannula simultaneously to remove the selected bone core from said harvesting cannula.

44. – 45. (canceled)

46. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said handle is a driveable handle that is operable to be struck to drive said generally planar edge of said harvesting member substantially axially into a surface and maintain the bone core within said harvesting member;

wherein said drill motor is operable to rotate said harvesting member with said sawtooth into a surface and maintain the bone core within said harvesting member.

47. (canceled)